

REMARKS

Prior to entry of the present Amendment, Claims 1-47 were previously cancelled, and Claims 48-60 are pending. In the present Amendment, Claims 49-51, 53, 55, 57 and 60 are amended for the reasons discussed below, new Claims 61-64 are added, Claims 48, 52, 56 and 59 are cancelled without prejudice, and Claims 54 and 58 are presented in their original form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that Claims 53-54, 57-58 and 60 include allowable subject matter.

Allowable Claim 53 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, newly-independent Claim 53 is allowable. Claims 54 and 55 depend from allowable independent Claim 53 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

Allowable Claim 57 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, newly-independent Claim 57 is allowable. Claims 49-51, 58 and 61-64 depend from allowable independent Claim 57 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

Allowable Claim 60 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, newly-independent Claim 60 is allowable.

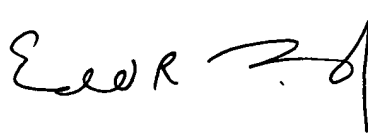
The Examiner rejected Claim 48 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,943,654 ("Emmons"). Also, the Examiner rejected Claims 49-52, 55-56 and 59 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over Emmons in combination with U.S. Patent Nos. 5,289,861 ("Hedrick"); 4,143,691 ("Robinson"); or 6,267,238 ("Miller et al."). Without prejudice, Applicants have cancelled Claims 48, 52, 56 and 59 and have amended Claims 49-51 and 55 to depend from allowable independent Claims 57 and 53, respectively, rendering these rejections moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections and reserve the right to re-present the rejected claims and to address the Examiner's rejections in a continuation patent application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claim 49-51, 53-55, 57-58 and 60 are respectfully requested.

The undersigned is available for telephone consultation during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. R. Lawson Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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